

REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND (RADF) 2023/24 – MAJOR ROUND TWO AND CITY OF THE ARTS HERO PROJECT

79/6/8 | #7399466

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves establishing Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) agreements for a total of \$91,120 (ex GST) from the 2023/24 and 2024/25 RADF budgets with the following applicants for the below amounts:
 - a. Bertie Riley - \$10,000 (ex GST)
 - b. Cairns And District Chinese Association Inc - \$5,110 (ex GST)
 - c. Crate59 Artist Collective & Gallery - \$10,000 (ex GST)
 - d. JUTE Theatre Company - \$9,850 (ex GST)
 - e. Leanne Tennant - \$10,000 (ex GST)
 - f. Rebecca Altaffer - \$7,160 (ex GST)
 - g. Round Table Collaborations - \$10,000 (ex GST)
 - h. Shaun Edwards – \$9,000 (ex GST)
 - i. Tropical Arts Association Inc. – \$10,000 (ex GST)
 - j. Warren Jr Terence John Tyrrell - \$10,000 (ex GST)
2. Approves establishing a RADF agreement for a total of \$25,000 (ex GST) from the City of the Arts Hero Project 2023/24 RADF budget with NorthSite Contemporary Arts.
3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above agreements.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Refer Attachment 1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) program is a partnership between Council and Arts Queensland. Both parties contribute funds which are used to support and activate arts and culture initiatives across the region through community grant programs and Council-led initiatives that meet priorities outlined in local and state arts and culture plans.

The RADF Committee met on 7 June 2024 to review, assess and make recommendations for the Major Grant Round Two and City of the Arts Hero Grant Project. Prior to the meeting, each committee member reviewed the applications independently. Assessments were conducted using a score card aligned with RADF investment criteria reflecting the shared objectives of the partner organisations. This includes impact, reach, quality, viability and alignment with Council's Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022 priorities.

Council received 22 eligible applications for the Major Grant Round Two, requesting a total of \$203,296 (ex GST). The RADF Committee has recommended ten of these projects for funding totalling \$91,120 (ex GST).

Council received four eligible applications for the City of the Arts Hero Project, requesting a total of \$99,900 (ex GST). The RADF Committee has recommended one of these projects for funding totalling \$25,000 (ex GST).

To ensure maximum support for artists and arts organisations, a portion of the recommended projects will receive funding from the 2024/25 RADF budget. This is in response to the large number of high-quality applications received, which reflects the increasing demand and potential of the region's arts sector.

BACKGROUND:

Major Grant Round:

There are two Major Grant Rounds annually, that cover a wide range of artistic disciplines. Applicants can apply for grants up to \$10,000 (ex GST). This grant provides funding for projects and programs that create vibrant arts and cultural experiences, including but not limited to:

- performances and exhibitions
- increased skills and professional development opportunities for artists
- new works that extend artists and art forms
- community arts and cultural development
- initiatives that strengthen cultural tourism and enhance cultural programs.

City of the Arts Hero Project:

The City of the Arts Hero Project is for one large scale, high calibre project. Only one project is funded each year and applicants can apply for up to \$25,000 (ex GST). This grant focuses on a range of disciplines, with a preference towards collaborations that engage multi-art forms, and the development of projects that:

- produce high-quality and highly visible new works
- have a regional, state or international outcome
- create strong legacies for those engaged in the project and foster long-term and positive outcomes
- nurture cross-sector and cross-artform collaboration

The total budget for the 2023/24 RADF grant program, which runs from 2 September 2023 through to 13 September 2024 is \$235,410 (ex GST). This amount comprises the following contributions:

Contribution	Amount (ex GST)
Arts Queensland	\$105,000
Cairns Regional Council	\$100,000
2020/21 and 2022/23 Surplus	\$30,410
Total Budget 2022/23	\$235,410

In accordance with the 2023/24 Arts Queensland agreement, the remaining budget is dispersed as follows:

Activity	Budgeted	Remaining
Major Round 1 & 2 (capped at \$10,000 per project)	\$140,000	\$59,548
City of the Arts Hero Project x 1 (capped at \$25,000)	\$25,000	\$25,000
Individual Professional Development	\$12,000	\$119
Small Arts Grants	\$4,000	\$1,569
Flame.Arts Access Leg-Up Grants	\$9,100	\$614
RADF Committee Fees	\$4,900	\$0
Strategic Project	\$10,000	\$0
Critical Thinkers Platform	\$10,000	\$0
Arts and Disability	\$10,410	\$0
Young Creatives Strategy Actions	10,000	\$0
Total	\$235,410	\$86,850

The remaining budget for the allocated Major Rounds is \$59,548. Due to the large number of strong applications and demand for Council support, funds from the 2024/25 RADF budget will be used to invest in these projects.

COMMENT:

Should Council approve the following RADF Committee recommendations, all successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified, and letters of acceptance and payments will be completed within 30 days. Officers will continue to provide advice and guidance to unsuccessful applicants concerning future grant applications.

Recommended for funding – Major Round Two (Total \$91,120 ex GST):

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title	Amount recommended
Bertie Riley	\$10,000	Magayin - Stand and Rise. Anticipated outcome: Bertie Riley, a Djabugay and West Yalanji man, fronts an innovative musical initiative backed by local band, Koahlition. This project blends indigenous culture with contemporary music, celebrating cultural richness while pushing creative boundaries.	\$10,000
Cairns And District Chinese Association Inc.	\$5,110	Deep Roots Anticipated outcome: Deep Roots is a publication designed to enhance the cultural tourism experience of visitors to the Chinese Culture & Heritage Centre when viewing the Lit Sung Goong temple collection.	\$5,110
Crate59 Artist Collective & Gallery	\$10,000	Crate59 Cairns Festival Exhibition - "Sweatbox" Anticipated outcome: During the Cairns Festival, the "Sweatbox" exhibition at Crate59 will feature three gallery spaces for 2D, sculpture, ceramics, projections, and installation by local artists.	\$10,000
JUTE Theatre Company	\$9,850	O,Ophelia - Youth Mentorships for theatre skills and professional pathways. Anticipated outcome: Overall Arts, a Youth Theatre Company based in Cairns, will co-produce 'O'Ophelia' with JUTE Theatre. This production	\$9,850

		aims to offer professional mentorship prospects to up-and-coming young artists, encompassing directors, cast members, and designers.	
Leanne Tennant	\$10,000	LT - Debut Album 'If My Heart Had a Voice' Anticipated outcome: The creation and release of new works to be included in the debut album for LT, 'If My Heart Had a Voice', which would also feature previously released award-winning track 'Act Your Age'.	\$10,000
Rebecca Altaffer	\$7,160	Wild Orbit: A Creative Development project Anticipated outcome: Wild Orbit, a new script for live performance by emerging writer Rebecca Altaffer, will undergo a creative development to improve the work. This poignant drama has themes of inclusion, advocacy, and disability care layered beneath a story of the challenges faced by a family whose daughter is living with disability.	\$7,160
Round Table Collaborations	\$10,000	Quest: A Hero Within Anticipated outcome: Quest: A Hero Within is a cinematic fantasy short film that aims to invigorate the community with a fresh, compelling narrative, utilising local actors, creatives, and locations.	\$10,000
Shaun Edwards	\$9,000	Creation of new artwork and product development for Wildbarra Co.	\$9,000

		<p>Anticipated outcome: A local First Nations artist highly regarded in Cairns, will expand his artistic vision to develop innovative art forms for Wildbarra Co. The focus is on creating a wider range of sustainable and profitable products within the community.</p>	
Tropical Arts Association Inc.	\$10,000	<p>Do you speak my language? Inclusive Community Theatre.</p> <p>Anticipated outcome: Emerging and experienced theatre-makers from the region will creatively develop new performance work in response to the project title. The project will culminate in Tropical Arts' creative showcase of short performances presented at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre over two evenings.</p>	\$10,000
Warren Jr Terence John Tyrrell	\$10,000	<p>WAARI Presents MUKI</p> <p>Anticipated outcome: WAARI presents MUKI, a sonic narrative about Blak life, land, and futures. WAARI returns to Gimuy, his hometown, to share MUKI's music and stories with family and local communities, accompanied by a powerful group of performers and collaborators.</p>	\$10,000

Not recommended for funding – Major Round Two

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title
Amber Grossmann	\$9,878	"I SH*T U NOT" - Regional Youth Theatre Collaboratively Developed by Emerging Artists
Far North Air Cats Inc.	\$10,000	Synergy Circus Spectacular
Gondwana Choirs	\$10,000	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya.
Ian Whittaker	\$10,000	Cairns Animation Incubator Productions
Julia Allman	\$4,723	Cairns Indian Ensemble Project, Acting Training for Emerging Indian-Origin Performers
Julie Montan	\$10,000	Princess Liar debut album Cobra Spit
Maja Chodorowski	\$10,000	Medusa
Mulgrave Shire Historical Society Inc.	\$7,681	Preserving our collections: Mulgrave Settlers Museum
NorthSite Contemporary Arts	\$10,000	Linear Horizons: A Collaborative Printmaking exchange between Baguio, Philippines and Cairns, Australia. (Supported through City of the Arts Hero Project).
Ring of Fire Productions	\$10,000	Deplorable - Short Film 8 Minutes
Rodney Hammond	\$9,999	Silversmithing Workshops
Shirley-Ann Rowley	\$9,895	Reef, Rainforest & Rivers RRR Uke Fest

Recommended for funding – City of the Arts Hero Project (Total \$25,000 ex GST):

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title	Amount recommended
NorthSite Contemporary Arts	\$25,000	<p>Linear Horizons: A Collaborative Printmaking exchange between Baguio, Philippines and Cairns, Australia.</p> <p>Anticipated outcome: 23 Sampaguita Artists Collective from the Philippines will partner with NorthSite Art Studios for an intercultural printmaking residency. Eight artists will engage in cultural exchange and collaborative printmaking, creating career opportunities and economic growth through print sales.</p>	\$25,000

Not recommended for funding – City of the Arts Hero Project

Applicant	Amount requested	Project Title
India Collins	\$25,000	Resilience Project, Resilience against Adversity Project
Round Table Collaborations	\$25,000	Quest: A Hero Within
Tilt Media & Entertainment	\$24,900	Ray of Sunshine Feature Film

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

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Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the recommendations and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

The RADF Committee is guided by Terms of Reference that stipulate the need to adhere to confidentiality as well as to report potential or perceived conflict of interest regarding assessment and recommendations. When matters of conflict arise, the Committee member does not take part in the decision-making process.

Council submitted a grant application to Arts Queensland for the financial years 2024/25 through to 2027/28. Council has requested the maximum funds available of \$480,000 for the four years and will be notified in June 2024 of the application outcome.

If Council is not successful, it will continue to deliver the community grants program and support the projects outlined in this report with the internal budgeted funds, but Council-led initiatives will be reduced.

It is noted that none of the applicants has an overdue grant acquittal through RADF or other Council grant streams.

The Executive Manager Creative Life has reviewed and supports the RADF Committee's recommendations.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

- The total amount allocated to 2023/24 Major Round One and Two grants is \$140,000 (ex GST).
- Major Round One supported nine projects to the value of \$80,452 (ex GST).
- Remaining budget for Major Round Two is \$59,548 (ex GST).
- 31,572 (ex GST) of funds will be used from the 2024/25 RADF budget to support recommended projects.

2023/24 RADF Major Rounds One & Two	
2023/24 Major Rounds Budget	\$140,000
Allocated	\$80,452
Remaining Major Round Budget 2023/24	\$59,548
Recommended in this report	\$59,548

Proposed 2024/25 RADF Budget	
Proposed 2024/25 RADF Budget	\$240,000
Recommended in this report	\$31,572
Remaining 2024/25 RADF Budget	\$208,428

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The RADF program enhances the capability, capacity and wellbeing of local community organisations and individuals.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The recommended applications align with Council's adopted Corporate Plan and the Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2022. This is achieved as follows:

- **Robust Economy:** Supporting a diversified and resilient economy that backs business innovation, growth, and jobs. This is achieved through the RADF grant program which is designed to encourage growth in the creative industries workforce and activate jobs. This increases the region's reputation as a tropical, cultural and creative hub that encourages innovation whilst contributing to a mixed economy.
- **Design for Liveability:** Creating a safe, sustainable and connected place that supports quality of life. RADF funded projects target a variety of community groups, interests, and geographical locations that stimulate activation and engagement.
- **Community and Culture:** Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong. RADF funded projects create opportunities for communities to participate in constructive activities that drive social change and encourages community integration whilst increasing skills, building capacity and breaking down barriers to participation.

Policy:

Cairns Regional Council's RADF Terms of Reference General Policy:

"The RADF Grants program was established in 1991 as a state and local government partnership to support professional artists and arts practitioners living in regional Queensland. The program focuses on the development of quality arts and arts practise for regional communities."

CONSULTATION:

Consultation with the community prior to the round opening was undertaken by the Arts and Cultural Grants Coordinator via a two-hour information session and the assessment of applications was undertaken by members of the RADF Committee:

- Daniela Vavrova – Museums/Galleries portfolio
- Kathryn Ash – Performing Arts portfolio
- Dennis McIntosh – Creative Writing portfolio
- Patty Preece – Music portfolio
- Russell Milledge - Multi-media portfolio
- Rose Rigley – Visual Arts portfolio
- Mounira Almenoar – Film/Screen portfolio
- Merindi Schrieber – First Nations Arts & Cultural Projects portfolio

Thirteen applications were identified as having conflicts of interest, and the assessors who identified the conflicts did not evaluate those submissions. Members of the committee left the room while funding decisions for related applications were being made.

It should be noted that the nature of the RADF Committee (consisting of arts and cultural experts within our community) often means that committee members are involved in

projects, or are members of artistic groups, which rely on RADF funds for the development and delivery of creative outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Interested Parties

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Foster', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Foster
Executive Manager Creative Life

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Destry Puia', written in a cursive style.

Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle & Community

Attachment 1 - Interested Parties

Recommended applicants:

Bertie Riley
Cairns And District Chinese Association Inc.
Crate59 Artist Collective & Gallery
JUTE Theatre Company
Leanne Tennant
Rebecca Altaffer
Round Table Collaborations
Shaun Edwards
Tropical Arts Association Inc.
Warren Jr Terence John Tyrrell

RADF Committee:

Daniela Vavrova
Kathryn Ash
Dennis McIntosh
Patty Preece
Russell Milledge
Rose Rigley
Mounira Almenoar
Merindi Schrieber